



WATERways

Public Works Department, Stormwater & GIS Services Division
Volume 24, Number 2: November 2020

Throw away used masks and gloves



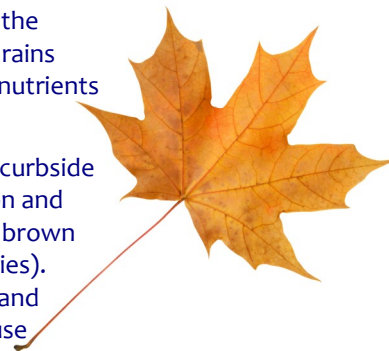
**Protect yourself.
Protect workers.
Protect our water.**

Bag or mulch your leaves

Help keep our water clean

Blowing leaves into the street clogs storm drains and adds too many nutrients to our creeks.

Instead, sign up for curbside yard waste collection and place leaves in your brown bin (annual fee applies). You can also mulch and compost leaves to use in your garden.



Stormwater project updates

The Stormwater and GIS Division of Public Works continues to repair and maintain public storm drains and pipes. The City's Public Works construction project web page, durhamnc.gov/509, lists active projects.

A plan to improve New Hope Creek and Little Creek is underway. Both creeks are located in southwest Durham and flow into Jordan Lake. Project staff led a virtual public meeting in September to present field study results and gather feedback. Visit the web page, durhamnc.gov/3766, to view the meeting recording, explore the Story Map, and read the status report.

Public Works is building a new bioretention cell at the City's General Services building. The green stormwater infrastructure project will filter and clean polluted runoff from the parking lot that currently serves the building.

Plant native trees & bushes

Winter is a great time to plant a tree or shrub. When you pick out the type, avoid invasive plants. Seeds from invasive plants are carried by wind and birds beyond your yard, causing harm to the local environment.



Instead, choose native plants such as sweet shrub and fringe tree. Native plants tolerate our clay soils, help soak up stormwater, provide food for pollinators, and have fragrant flowers! Learn more: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/landscaping-for-wildlife-with-native-plants>

Find us on social media



[DurhamNCStormwater](https://www.facebook.com/DurhamNCStormwater)



[@DurhamStormH2O](https://twitter.com/@DurhamStormH2O)



<http://bit.ly/swsvideos>

Scientists and engineers evaluated 71 stormwater control measures as part of the field study for New Hope Creek and Little Creek. They studied 59 possible places to build new control measures.



Understanding flood terms and your flood risk

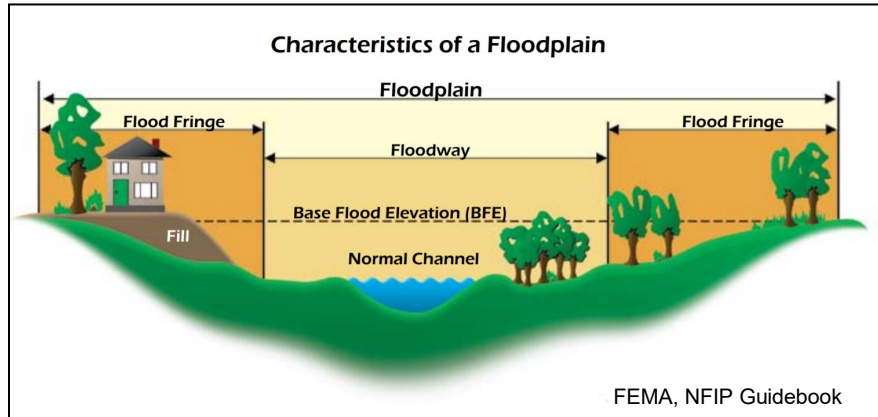
A **floodway** is the channel of a stream plus the land beside the stream where most of the water flows during a flood. Almost nothing is allowed to be built within in a floodway.

A **floodplain** includes the floodway plus additional low-lying land that floods during significant rain events.

What if my home is in a floodplain?

Flood maps show the areas that may flood during and after an extreme rainfall. If your property is in a flood zone, you should contact your insurance agent about flood insurance. Most home and renter's insurance does not cover flood damage.

Because the City of Durham participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, provides information to the public, and has a good community rating, many



Durham residents get a 15% discount on flood insurance. You can buy flood insurance even if your property is not in a mapped flood zone.

What is my flood risk?

A 100-year flood means that there is a one percent chance each year that a home will flood. A home in a 100-year floodplain has one percent chance of flooding each year, but over a 30-year mortgage, there is a 26% chance the home will flood.

What is a riparian zone?

A riparian zone is the area next to a stream that includes the floodplain and plant "buffer." A natural buffer of trees and bushes filters polluted runoff, helping to keep stream water clean and cool. Riparian buffer regulations apply in some parts of Durham, so check with officials before cutting down trees or other plants next to a creek or river.

Where can I learn more?

Floodplain information durhamnc.gov/978 or call (919) 560-4326

FEMA floodplain maps fris.nc.gov or durhamnc.gov/1455

Official floodplain determination Email: DSCFloodplain@durhamnc.gov or call (919) 560-4137

Riparian buffer rules Email: dscticket@dsc.mojohelpdesk.com or call (919) 560-4312

Unified Development Ordinance durhamnc.gov/414

Public Works Department - Stormwater and GIS Services

(919) 560-4326 - <http://durhamnc.gov/stormwater>

Report Water Pollution: stormwaterquality@durhamnc.gov or (919) 560-SWIM

Questions about Stormwater Utility Fee: stormwaterfee@durhamnc.gov or Durham One Call: (919) 560-1200
Development Review - Drainage Concerns - GIS - Surface Water Quality - Watershed Implementation

Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act: Persons who require assistance should call (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254, TTY (919) 560-1200 or email ADA@durhamnc.gov no later than 48 hours before the event.

Si necesita traducción al español, por favor llame 919-560-4326.